

SPED 03-01

M E M O R A N D U M

July 17, 2002

TO: Impartial Due Process Hearing Officers and
Administrative Law Judges

FROM: Randy R. Lazar
Dispute Resolution Manager
Exceptional Student Services

RE: One-Tiered Due Process System

As we informed you last August (2001), the Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS) Division has been in the process of taking steps to move towards a One-Tiered Due Process System. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know of the recent developments with this matter. On May 21, 2002, the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) voted in support of ADE/ESS going in this direction. The next step in the process will involve presenting this proposal to the Arizona State Board of Education and taking the necessary steps to pursue changes to the current State Board Rule (A.A.C. R7-2-405). If the State Board approves changes to the Rule, then the next step will be to have the revised Rules certified by the Attorney General's Office.

It is difficult to determine what will happen at the State Board level and how much time the rest of this process is going to take. At any rate, I will keep you informed of any new developments.